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J OShaughnessy* (joshough@su.edu). *Town Hall Research Project in Introductory Statistics.*

As part of a general education initiative, guided research projects have been introduced in selected general education courses, including introductory statistics. The project involves students delving into independent research using a topic related to social concerns and coming up with a solution to a particular problem. The students then gather with students from other general education courses to discuss their research and debate solutions along with community consultants. This talk explains how the research project works in introductory statistics and some of the advantages and challenges of this type of project in a lower level math course. This project is funded by a Teagle Consortium Grant. (Received February 03, 2017)